



206286

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INITIAL POLREP

I. HEADING

DATE: Jan.4,1999

FROM: Walter Nied, OSC, USEPA, Region V, ERB, Sec. #2

TO: K. Mould, USEPA, Wash, D.C.....(VIA FAX)
R. Karl, USEPA, ERB, Chicago, IL.....(VIA FAX)
B.Bolen USEPA, ERB, Sec.#2, Chicago, IL..(VIA FAX)
B. Kush, USEPA, ERB, Sec.#4, Chicago, IL.....(VIA FAX)
T.Turner,USEPA, ORC, Chicago, IL.....(VIA FAX)
T. Lesser, USEPA, OPA, Chicago, IL.....(VIA FAX)
Dan Klopke, IEPA, Maywood, IL.....(VIA FAX)
U.S. Coast Guard, 9th District.....(VIA FAX)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Lansing, MI.....(VIA FAX)
Robert Dumelle USEPA CONTRACTS (VIA FAX)

SUBJECT: Maple Lake Drums.

POLREP #: Initial#1

II. BACKGROUND

SITE ID: B5A4

Response Authority: Superfund **State Notification:** IEPA

NPL Status: No **Start Date:** 12-23-98

End Date:Open

III.SITE INFORMATION

.Maple Lakes Drums in located in the Cook Co. Forest Preserve at approxiately 95th and Wolf Road. On 12-23-98,22 Drums were dumped at the eastern end of the southern parking lot at 10:00 am. An eyewitness observed this dumping and informed the local police department who then notified a Forest Preserve Investigator(Diana L.Piecyk-Funk) who called the IEPA.At 2:00pm the IEPA Investigator called Mr. Tom Geishecker and requested the U.S.EPA's assistance to properly remove these drums suspected to filled with paint waste. OSC's Borries and Nied left the office at 2:30pm and were onsite by 3:10pm. OSC Borries after his walkthrough, contacted management and received a verbal for \$25K to have our ERR's contractor properly contain and dispose of these drums.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A) Actions Taken Upon arrival OSC's Borries and Nied met with the IEPA's representatives Don

Klopke and Jim Clark, and a Forest Preserve Police Officer. After observing the pile of drums, of which one still had a red Flammable Sticker on it, the OSC decided to contact our contractor, EQM and request that the appropriate personnel and equipment be mobed to this site immediately. START Personnel arrived at 4:15pm and 1) photographed the drums, 2) conducted air sampling & 3) set up a generator to power lights. Also at 4:00pm John Slinger of the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division arrived and requested that every drum be sampled. EQM's Removal Manager, Mr. Jeff Rhinefield arrived at 7:00pm and the following activities commenced 1) All 22 drums were overpacked, 2) Overpacked drums were then loaded into a rental truck & 3) Moved the truck for secured storage to the Forest Preserves facility 1 mile west of 123rd and Wolf Rd. These activities were completed at 1:00am and *everyone* agreed to attempt to thaw out the drums on Mon. 12-28-98.

On Monday OSC Nied and EQM's RM, Mark Douglas, received permission from the Cook Co. Forest Preserve's Representative to thaw out the drums inside their Cal. Sag. Maintenance Facilities' heated garage which would allow them to be sampled on Tues. A door to a lunch area was sealed with plastic and two drums were left with their lids on to eliminate the release of Organic Vapors. Using an P.I.D. our START Personnel confirmed that no organic vapors were being released and the storage area and gate were locked for the evening. An attempt was made to contact the PRP whose license plate was recorded by an anonymous eyewitness who was present during the dumping of the drums. An attorney contacted the Cook Co. F.P.'s Investigator and stated that he represented the Suspected PRP who did not have the funds to pay for the cleanup. All drum labels had been removed except for one which stated COATING CORP. "PAINT". It was obvious that the top drum labels had been removed with a grinder because of the marks remaining.

On Tuesday, 12-29-98, all 22 drums were sampled and compatibility testing was conducted by our START personnel. 12 of the 22 drum samples exhibited the hazardous characteristic of being ignitable at less than 140 degrees F. Samples were shipped to the NEIC lab, as requested by CID, and to a local lab for disposal analyses. The truck with the overpacked drums inside will be secured at this facility until proper disposal has been arranged for them by EQM personnel.

Carol Graszar Ropski, Enforcement Section and Tom Turner, Office of Regional Counsel, were assigned to this case and verbal notice was given to Mr. Adam Stello Esq. the suspected PRP's attorney on 12-31-98. Also, on 1-4-99 a written notice was faxed and mailed to Mr. Stello which gave his client until 1-6-99 to commit to complete all activities as determined to be necessary by the U.S. EPA OSC.

B) Future Actions

Continue enforcement efforts and properly dispose of these drums..

V. COSTS Not determined yet